

Thomas P. Gaffey, Co-Chair
Andrew M. Fleishmann, Co-Chair
Education Committee
Room 3100, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Regarding Raised Bill # 1142, Section 4 (d) (i) and Section 5 (b)

Relief of State Mandates on School Districts:

Dear Senator Gaffey, Representative Fleishmann, and Committee:

I am in strong OPPOSITION to Bill 1142, Section 4 (d) (i) and Section 5 (b).

I am a parent of a child with Autistic Spectrum Disorder. I am extremely disappointed that a bill is being raised to consider eliminating services to special needs children when they reach 21 years of age, and not a day past that. The term special-needs are used for a legitimate reason. A twenty-one year old special needs adult still needs services regardless of their age. The legislation is putting a number on the health, safety, and quality of life of individuals whom have never had a say so over their intellectual or physical handicaps.

My child is only 6 years old now. It frightens me to think that if her education were in jeopardy and the school district we so trusted her to in providing the best education possible were not providing it, we would not have the financial resources, or legal support to give her the due process she needed. This shifts the responsibilities of the school districts to increased burden on families who are already fighting the battle against their son or daughter's handicaps or disabilities, just living day to day, to more stressful and emotional burdens that are not absolutely necessary.

More and more children are being born now with special needs issues. In order for us to sustain and desire functional citizens in our society, we need to provide the absolute best services to special needs children and adults. This is an issue that should be without question. Please vote NO to this! You will be making a difference in thousands of lives to come!

Sincerely,

Pamela Sauls

Danbury, Ct

Resident